

CRUSADER

Vol. 9, No. 9 Serving the 98th ASG and the 235th, 279th, 280th and 417th BSBs – Army communities of excellence May 11, 2001

Ansbach • Bad Kissingen • Bamberg • Giebelstadt • Illesheim • Kitzingen • Schweinfurt • Wuerzburg

Cougars track team pushes for places

See Page 13



Conversion is costly

Americans in Europe must keep in mind that only vehicles converted to U.S. standards by expert companies in the United States will be accepted by the Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency. Trying to import vehicles converted overseas can cost extra bonds, fines and storage fees. For more information, get the "Importing the Car" pamphlet from the military customs office or go to www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/cars.htm.

Sign up for course

The 98th ASG Safety Office hosts a motorcycle riding course: It's offered at no cost to attendees in Kitzingen May 18-20. Students will use their own or borrowed motorcycle. To sign up or for more information, call Ollie Parducho or CWO 4 Mark Shriver at 351-1470/4433.

Reserve ball set

The 7th Army Reserve Command/U.S. Army Reserve anniversary ball will be held at Heidelberg's Patrick Henry Village pavilion June 16 at 6 p.m. For more information, call Maj. Feleceia Turner at 379-6289.

ADA hosts ball



Brown

The 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade hosts the annual U.S. Army Europe Air Defense Artillery ball at the Patrick Henry Village pavilion in Heidelberg June 1. Guest speaker will be Maj. Gen. Stanley Green, Chief of Air Defense Artillery. Participants are asked to reply to 1st Lt. Jaime Brown at 352-7293/7682 no later than May 18.

Ride your bike

National Bike-to-Work Week runs May 12 through 19. Official National Bike-to-Work Day is May 17. For more information, visit www.bike2work.com.

Aviators tee it up

Giebelstadt's 12th Aviation Brigade hosts a golf scramble May 21 at Golf Club Kitzingen on Larson Barracks. Entry is \$25 per person and includes lunch and prizes. For information call Ed Brock at 352-6467 or (09334) 86467.

Attend warrant ball in Heidelberg

The European Region of the U.S. Army Warrant Officers' Association will host its 29th annual members' meeting in Heidelberg at the village pavilion in Patrick Henry Village from June 19-22. Highlights for this year's meeting include Warrant Officer Professional Development Day June 21 and ball June 23. This year's guest speaker is the USAREUR Commander, General Montgomery C. Meigs. For more information contact your local chapter representative or call CWO 4(R) Roy Valiant at 370-6024 or CWO 2 John LaRose at 379-5254.

Changes in parking on Leighton

There are new parking regulations at the Leighton Commissary. There is now a three-hour limit, and in order to park you must have a blue parking disc which can be obtained from insurance companies or on the economy. The enforcement of the new regulation starts May 15. For more information call 355-8952, or (09321) 305952.

Get the strength of insurance

Protect your personal goods for minimal outlay

by Olivia Feher
CRUSADER

With fires on the increase in government-owned, government-leased and private-rental housing, now is the time to check if you're insured for your privately-owned property, say housing officials.

"Every soldier and civilian working for the U.S. Army should have insurance covering their private property, as neither the government nor German landlords provide insurance for residents' personal property," said Samuel Gregory, Wuerzburg housing manager.

This is true for government-owned, government-rental and private-rental housing.



Gregory

"To protect themselves, residents are strongly encouraged to take out both personal property and personal liability insurance coverage. It costs only a few dollars a year for this much-needed protection," Gregory said.

"Only under certain circumstances will the Army reimburse claims for personal property. For example, if the fire was caused through no fault of the resident, then the U.S. Army Claims Service would cover the claim for damage. This is determined on a case by case basis after an investigation is completed," said Lt. Col. Jack Einwechter, 1st Infantry Division deputy staff judge advocate.

"Claims paid for fire damage are never for the full value of the property, only the depreciated value," Einwechter said.

Sgt. Rhonda Brothers, Company A, 67th



U.S. Army courtesy photo

Firefighters hustle to put out a fire in a 98th ASG barrack's building.

Combat Support Hospital, Wuerzburg, has reason to regret not having an insurance policy covering her private property.

"A technical defect caused a fire in my home in Kuernach recently, causing damage between DM150,000 and DM200,000. Although claims is helping me out, I didn't have a private insurance policy for my personal goods and will only receive a portion of their worth.

"I strongly urge everyone, no matter where you're living, to get a private insurance policy to cover you in case of fire. Also, get a fire-proof box to hold all your important documents," Brothers said.

"I was lucky that my unit came to my help so quickly. They really were outstanding in their support and assistance," she added.

"The common attitude is that in the case of fire, the Army or someone else pays. This simply is not true as far as private property is concerned. If you were living in the United States, you certainly would have some type of insurance covering your private property, so why not have it here," Gregory said.

Many local and U.S. insurance companies carry personal insurance policies.

Soldiers come together at conference

by Mark Heeter
CRUSADER

They went there to learn, and learn they did. Single servicemembers from throughout Europe learned "How to Be the Happiest Rhinoceros in the Jungle."

That was the title of Charlie Tyrian's motivational speech at the Better Opportunity for Single Servicemembers, or BOSS, conference in Garmisch April 22-27.

"We all learned something from his speech and had a good time taking part in the conference," said Spec. Travis Willer, 280th BSB BOSS president.

Willer represented the 280th BSB at the conference with CSM Jessie Legette, community sergeant major, and Silvia Joiner, recreation specialist with the community recreation division. Representatives from more than 20 communities attended the conference.

"Overall, the conference went really well. It was well-organized, and they didn't leave any dead space," Willer said, confirming the hopes he had before leaving Schweinfurt April 22.

Before their departure, Willer, Joiner and Legette discussed their expectations for their first conference together as the local BOSS leaders.

See **SOLDIERS** on Page 6

Shipping vehicles easier

by Olivia Feher
CRUSADER

On April 1, new procedures for shipping a vehicle from Europe to the United States took effect.

"This is supposed to make life easier for those shipping cars. It also better protects U.S. agriculture from pests and diseases," said Ron Shurtleff, 98th ASG Directorate of Logistics transportation chief.

The contractor who accepts the vehicle will now clean the undercarriage of the vehicle, which will make shipping easier and cheaper.

"Contractors know that cleaning the undercarriage can be a tricky job. This gives shippers more time to make sure that the inside is really clean," Shurtleff added.

Only clean vehicles will be accepted for shipping.

"It's very important that people do this job properly. Just think of the recent outbreak of the foot-and-mouth disease in Europe – we don't

want this to get stateside with dirt and soil in the cars," said Michael Burkert, U.S. European Command's custom executive agency director.

The person shipping the car must ensure that the vehicle's exterior, interior, trunk and area under the hood are dirt-free. The vehicle's cleanliness will be checked before accepting it for shipment.

The shipper is responsible for ensuring the outside of the vehicle is clean. The inside must be free of soil, dirt and trash. This includes carpets, under the seats, glove compartment, ashtray, console, dashboard and storage areas. The trunk should be vacuumed and must be free of soil, dirt and trash.

"Vehicles that don't meet the requirements won't be accepted for shipment. The contractors only clean the undercarriage, wheel wells, grill and bumpers after the vehicle has been accepted for shipment," Shurtleff added.

For more information, call Ron Shurtleff at 351-4719 or visit www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/cars.htm.

Community focus

How often do you suffer from headaches?



- At least once a day – 47%
- At least once a week – 36%
- At least once a month – 12%
- Less frequently than once a month – 5%

Source: drkoop.com polls

By: Olivia Feher

Celebrate Military Spouses' Day May 11



The military spouse is versatile, resilient and independent

Since before the days of the American Revolution, military spouses have been following and supporting their soldiers. Army spouses have proven themselves to be a unique, resourceful and special breed of person. In today's Army, the concept of the traditional Army spouse has been expanded to include male spouses, joint soldier families, and spouses of the Army's civilian work force – both American and local national. Regardless of gender or duty status, today's spouses are unique and special people whose contributions and sacrifices directly enhance soldier readiness and mission accomplishment. One has only to look around our communities to see the positive impact of spouses who serve in the work force and as volunteers to improve our quality of life. Their unselfish contributions support not only their soldiers but also the communities in which they live and work. Enduring frequent periods of separation from family and

friends, establishing homes in many distant places, and serving as both mother and father to their children are some of the countless personal sacrifices that are made each day by these special spouses. Because the role of the spouse is often taken for granted, May 11 has been set aside as Military Spouses' Day, a day to recognize and honor all spouses whose efforts are critical to our Army's success. Spouses, we salute you and thank you for all that you do. Team of Teams!

Gerald E. Ferguson, Jr. Colonel, Armor 98th Area Support Group

Thumbs up – Thumbs down

Thumbs up to John McQue, zoning manager for Defense Commissary Agency, European Region, for his exceptional skill at mediating and resolving a conflict in the Leighton Barracks Commissary. His perspective of customer appreciation cannot be beat. Thank you. Red Wortham, Wuerzburg

Thumbs up to Dr. (Capt.) David Wallace, family practice, U.S. Army Hospital, Wuerzburg. Throughout my pregnancy, he has always made my husband and I feel well-informed and comfortable. He's always in an upbeat mood and has given us some great advice. Thanks so much for making this, my first pregnancy, a great and worry-free experience. Good luck to you and your family in Seattle! Capt. Michael and Christy Schutte, Wuerzburg

Thumbs up to Robin West, Katie McMaster and Michelle Lartigue, the volunteers from the Catholic Confraternity of Christian Doctrine class, and all those who helped renovate and reopen the Cav Connection. The Cav Connection takes donations of good-quality clothing and household items and gives it back to the community for free. Thank you to those committed individuals who brought this wonderful resource back to life for the Schweinfurt community. Amy Markwell, Schweinfurt

Thumbs up to Bill Dickerson, Kitzingen Rod & Gun Club range supervisor, for taking the time to instruct several students on the trap range. Your patience and instruction have made a positive difference in our shooting skills. Jan Burrows, Kitzingen

Thumbs up to Allison Santiago. On the afternoon of March 26, we had a soldier go into a seizure outside in a car. Mr. Santiago stopped his car directly behind and helped our soldier. He went out of his way, apparently off duty in his civilian clothes, to help a fellow soldier who was

obviously in distress. When the German ambulance arrived, he quietly walked away and drove off. I am disappointed that no one else acknowledged him, but I want him to know what a great thing he did. Thank you! I wish there were more people like him. Cheryl Daniels, Kitzingen

Thumbs up to Spec. Hector Chaves of Company B, 7th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, who lent his coat to keep the soldier who had a seizure warm until the ambulance arrived. It's soldiers like these that make you proud. Cheryl Daniels, Kitzingen

Double thumbs up to the Giebelstadt Child Development Center. This organization is one that goes out of its way to accommodate families within the community. Although my child has only been involved with the staff of Infant A & B, I am confident to say that every child is treated with kindness, understanding and love. I want to extend my thanks, publicly, to the administrative and Infant B staff for allowing me to be worry-free about my child as I volunteer for the community. You are great people with a tough job! Kim Love, Wuerzburg

Thumbs up to Ernie Batson of the 235th BSB for all the time he has given to Operation Holiday, Scholarship Committee and the American Red Cross. All the organizations have benefited financially from Bingo, which is Ernie's expertise. Ernie comes and sets up the equipment, works with the volunteers on the way the bingo should run and then calls the games. These organizations could not have made the amount of money they have without his help. Thanks, Ernie, for your generous support. Rhonda Lambert, Ansbach

Thumbs up to the Schweinfurt Army and Air Force Exchange Service, United Service Organization and Andrews Federal Credit Union for their donations to support our com-

munity spouses' club Easter fundraiser. We know that we can always count on them to support our requests for assistance. We appreciate all you do for the soldiers, civilians and family members of the Schweinfurt military community. Alexis Santana, Schweinfurt

Thumbs up to Garrett Devine, Chris Pate and Timothy McNeal for winning the first three places at the Ansbach Cub Scout Pack 97 pinewood derby. Chuck Leikum, Ansbach

Thumbs up to all the Schweinfurt community agencies and services that permitted displays of their support for child abuse prevention month. I would like to say thanks for your outstanding support of the children of our future. Clara Schueler, Schweinfurt

Thumbs up to Maurice Joiner for making the Schweinfurt Post Exchange a great place to shop. The audio section is great. Toni Graves, Schweinfurt

Thumbs down to Burger King on Warner Barracks for advertising opening hours for breakfast at 6 a.m. and not being open at that time. If you advertise that you are opening at 6 a.m., then by all means, be open. Much to my dismay and after my seventh visit, I have sat at the drive-through until 6:30 a.m. Shannon Lowe, Bamberg

* * * "Thumbs up – Thumbs down" is about people who do a good job. It's also about people who need to be more considerate of others. This column is not about institutions, units, agencies or situations that could be subject to legal action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Submissions must be brief and include the writer's name and telephone number. The identity of the submitter will be published along with the comments. Send comments to Thumbs up – Thumbs down; CRUSADER; 98th ASG PAO; Unit 26622; APO AE 09244. Or bring them to room 216, building 208, Faulenberg Kaserne, Wuerzburg. Phone-in submissions are not accepted.

Milestones

Congratulations to MSgt. Jeffrey McGinnes, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, Conn Barracks. He retired on March 21 after 26 years of service in the United States Army. Congratulations to Capt. Charlie Hansell, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, Schweinfurt. Hansall was recently named one of the 12 Army-wide recipients of the General Douglas McArthur Leadership Award. He will be among those to be honored in a ceremony at the Pentagon. Congratulations to all the Schweinfurt military community volunteers who were honored at a ceremony April 23 at the Abrams Entertainment Center. Special kudos go out to the top volunteers in the four main categories: Christopher Pitcher for the youth category; Robert and Audrey Beishline for the family category; Tanya Skaarup for the spouse category and Spec. Lanette Cannon for the military category. Congratulations to Haley Cook, 98th ASG Internal Review office, for superior performance on consulting and audit work over the past three years. This work has resulted in monetary benefits, process improvements, and improved internal controls throughout the 98th ASG. Congratulations to the 2001 volunteers of the year Stephanie Palmer, family member, Headquarters Company, 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, Giebelstadt, and Sgt. Christopher St. Clergy, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, who were recognized April 23 at the annual volunteer recognition ceremony on Leighton Barracks. Congratulation to the four-man team of Gary Cole, Andrew Stephens, Larry Baricuatro and John Estep who won the 280th BSB spring golf tournament at Club Loffelsterz outside Schweinfurt April 21. Maurice Fran won the closest-to-the-pin competition.

Street talk: What makes the military spouse so special?

Photos by CRUSADER staff



MSgt. Theresa Rowland, Equal Opportunity Office, 235th BSB, Barton Barracks, Ansbach "My husband supports me 200 percent. He just wants to know what he can do to help me. If I have to go the field or away, I never have to worry about anything. Then I can concentrate on my mission."



SFC Robert Macy, 317th Maintenance Company, Warner Barracks, Bamberg "Successful military spouses are very resourceful and flexible. They are important because they also support the U.S. Army's mission."



Alexis Santana, family member, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, Ledward Barracks, Schweinfurt "I think just all the hardships we have to put up with, whether it's the deployments or the long days at work. Also, the dual hats we have to wear sometimes as both mother and father."



Lisa Scala, family member, Company F, 159th Aviation Regiment, Giebelstadt Army Airfield "The Army spouse is flexible and is always supportive, no matter what is happening. She can cope with long deployments and keep the family together."



Spec. Patrick McAlister, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 235th BSB, Barton Barracks, Ansbach "My wife helps me keep things in perspective. Military life is such a different world. She keeps normalcy in my life and my feet on the ground."



SFC John Ruyle, Company B, 82nd Engineer Battalion, Warner Barracks, Bamberg "Military spouses are special because they have to deal with a lack of stability in their lives. They also have an amazing ability to remain flexible."



Phillip Morse, 280th BSB Business Operation Division, Ledward Barracks, Schweinfurt "They say soldiers have to be able to adapt and overcome. Well, spouses have to double-adapt and overcome. It's like Fred Astaire dancing forward while Ginger Rogers is dancing backwards with high heels on."



Charlene Kearse, family member, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment, Giebelstadt Army Airfield "She supports her husband in everything he does. When they are gone, we are the backbone of the family."

CRUSADER

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The Ansbach, editorial office is located in building 5257, Barton Barracks, Ansbach, telephone 468-7649 or (0981) 183649. The Bamberg editorial office is located in building 7089, Warner Barracks, Bamberg, telephone 469-7581 or (0951) 3007581. The Kitzingen editorial office is located in building 145, Harvey Barracks, telephone 355-8575 or (09321) 305575. The Schweinfurt editorial office is located in Robertson Hall, Ledward Barracks, Schweinfurt. telephone 354-6381 or (09721) 966381. 98th Area Support Group Commander .. Col. Gerald E. Ferguson Jr. 98th ASG Public Affairs Officer Donald Klingner Editor Olivia Feher Assistant Editor Christy Schutte Journalist (Ansbach) Lisa Eichhorn Journalist (Bamberg) Cheryl Boujnida Journalist (Schweinfurt)..... Mark Heeter Journalist (Kitzingen)..... Elaine Nicholas Proofreader..... Sigrid Peña Reader contributions are welcome but will be published at the discretion of the editor.



Student jobs are available



Waters

Students wishing to work during school summer break can participate in the summer hire program. Students must fill out an employment packet and use the Resumix system to apply. Students must be 14 years old or older in order to be considered. For more information, call Dr. Tom Waters at the Ansbach Middle/High School at 467-2808 or (09802) 832808.

Fire hydrants flushed

The 235th Department of Public Works, or DPW, will flush fire hydrants May 15 on Storck Barracks and in the housing area in Illesheim. For more information, call DPW utilities division at 467-2126 or (09802) 832126.

AAFES has new numbers

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service-Europe main exchange on Bismarck Kaserne has changed its phone number to (09802) 958510. The shoppette's new number on Katterbach Kaserne is (09802) 958430, and the Power Zone's new number is (09802) 958410.

Customs sets new hours

The United States Customs Office has new hours. They are Mon, Tue, Wed, and Fri from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4:30 p.m. The office will be closed on Thu. For more information, call 468-7842 or (0981) 183842.

Talk about books

The Book Discussion Club on Storck Barracks hosts its monthly meeting May 19. This month's book is "Open House" by Elizabeth Berg. If you are interested in joining the group, call the Illesheim Library at 467-4675 or (09841) 83675.

Hours change

The Illesheim Auto Skills Center on Storck Barracks has new hours. The center is open Mon and Fri from noon-8 p.m.; Tue from 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Sat and Sun from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. They are closed Wed and Thu. For more information, call 467-4608 or (09841) 83608.

ACS can help

Army Community Service, or ACS, in Ansbach offers programs and services such as the lending locker, newcomers' orientation, sponsorship education and German language classes and many more. For more information, call 467-2883 or (09802) 951647, building 5817-A on Katterbach Kaserne.

235th BSB

The Crusader, 235th Base Support Battalion, editorial office is located in building 5257, Barton Barracks, telephone 468-7649 or (0981) 183649. Mailing address is PAO, Crusader, 235th Base Support Battalion, CMR 463, APO AE 09177.

Internet web site address <http://www.ansbach.army.mil>

The 235th BSB hot line is 468-7800 or (0981) 183800. The patient liaison number is (09841) 83512.

235th BSB Commander	Lt. Col. Cindy Connally
Public Affairs Officer	Frauke Davis
Journalist	Lisa Eichhorn

Wild West comes to Illesheim

Mechanical bull, jail show best of the West

by Lisa Eichhorn
CRUSADER

A cold rain fell on the prairie as cowboys and cowgirls alike braved the elements and stepped up to ride the mechanical bull, only to find out why real cowboys walk so funny.

Many more stood by and cheered their cowfolk on. Maybe even snickering a little as one by one they flew through the air, falling victim to the electric bull.

All this old-fashioned fun took place at the annual Wild Wild West celebration on Storck Barracks in Illesheim April 27. The Illesheim Spouses and Community Club, or ISCC, sponsored the event.

"We host this event each year because it's not only a great way to share our culture with our German neighbors, but it's a great way to raise money," said Beth Gunter, ISCC treasurer.

"We raised more than \$6,000 this year, before expenses. All the money raised by ISCC goes

back into the community by way of donations and scholarships," Gunter said.

The biggest money-maker at the event, according to Gunter, wasn't the ever-popular mechanical bull, but the old-fashioned jail.

"The sheriffs were awesome. They didn't let anybody off. I had to bail out one of the guys serving food so he could finish his shift. They made it a lot of fun to get someone arrested," she added.

There was something for everyone at the event, Western-style food, country dancing and gaming tables in addition to the jail and the bull.

"It was so well organized and really had the feel of the Old West. Everyone there was having such a good time. I loved watching the country-dancing, and the ribs were great. It was really funny watching the people in jail, begging to be bailed out, too," said Glenda Szad, family member.

"But the most fun was watching the people ride the mechanical bull, it was really hysterical. Even though it was raining and cold outside, it was a great time."



Lisa Eichhorn
Chaplain (Capt.) Julie Rowan tries her hand at bull riding during Illesheim's Wild Wild West April 27. Rowan had a tough ride, but a soft landing.

Students gain insight into careers

by Lisa Eichhorn
CRUSADER

Many students say they have an idea of what they want to be when they get out of school.

Of course, they're prone to change their mind every week or two, and maybe they do that because they don't know what a chosen career field really entails.

On April 24, students at Ansbach Middle/High School were able to get first-hand information from a wide range of professionals at their annual career day.

Each student was allowed to pick three different career-field sessions, according to Dr. Tom Waters, event organizer.

"When I first arrived here several years ago, I realized that the students didn't have a clear idea of what careers they wanted and what they would be expected to do. So I asked the administration if we could sponsor a career day to help them with the decision-making process.

"The first year the students were very excited and talked a lot about the sessions they attended. It's been an annual event ever since. The main reason it is a success is because the entire faculty

supports the day."

Paul Schaeffer, chief engineer at the 235th BSB Department of Public Works, said that he enjoyed talking with the children because he feels it is important to give them a realistic view of a broad range of careers.

"I think it is very important to give the students a real-world look at what we do. Lots of people want to be an engineer because they associate it with a big paycheck. But I explained it's more important to do it because you enjoy it and it is fulfilling," he said.

Two students helped organize the event. Angela Killion and Edward Taylor contacted all the professionals and coordinated with the staff.

"I'm glad I had the opportunity to talk to someone in the area of psychology because it made me change my mind. I always thought I wanted to be a psychologist, but after hearing how long it takes to get to that point, I know I don't want to go to school that long. But I also decided that a better field for me would be social work. I'm really glad we did this. I think it has given me a clearer idea of what I was really looking for," Killion said.



Lisa Eichhorn
SSgt. Chadwick Deal, 235th BSB Provost Marshal Office, talks with students at Ansbach Middle/High School during Career Day.

Girl Scouts spruce up local bus stops

Nora Cantwell, second from right, and members of the Ansbach Neighborhood Girl Scouts, scrape away old paint off of a bus stop in the Bleidorn housing area. The Girl Scouts chose the project because the bus stops have fallen victim to the bad weather and need sprucing up. The girls and parents took their job very seriously, although they they still managed to have a great time. Many of the young painters enjoyed the opportunity to use the painting equipment, even wearing a little paint here and there. Bad weather hampered the day, forcing the Girl Scouts to stop painting. They will return to finish this bus stop and go on to refurbish several others in the Ansbach area.



Lisa Eichhorn

235th BSB showcases its Asian-Pacific culture

by Lisa Eichhorn
CRUSADER

The Asian-Pacific culture is rich with diversity. It has had a profound influence on American culture. This month the 235th BSB will celebrate their contributions with several exciting events.

"When we began to plan the events for Asian-Pacific Month, we wanted to highlight many of the different cultures that the month represents. When you think that Asia goes from the North Pole to Australia over to Iraq, you realize there are many, many countries involved," said Vikki Hanrahan, event coordinator for the 235th BSB special emphasis committee.

"Most people don't realize that these countries have not only

influenced food, but also music, plays and films, just to name a few. Many talented Asian-Pacific people have contributed great things to our country," Hanrahan said.

One particular event will feature ethnic dances and food. Alex Laidlaw has helped coordinate an event in Illesheim at the Fort Apache Club May 12 at 4 p.m.

"We will have authentic dancing performed by local residents that will represent the countries of Korea, the Philippines and the state of Hawaii. What we wanted to do with our event was to highlight not only the dances, but give a more in-depth view into each culture. I was raised in Hawaii, but other than loving the food of countries like Thailand and Korea, I didn't know much about the people and their traditions. I think it's very important

to let people know that there is more to our cultures than just hula dancing, which seems to be the stereotype," she said.

There are also several other events planned. An Asian-Pacific celebration at the Ansbach Middle/High School May 19 from 3-5 p.m. It will feature displays and food from countries such as Thailand, Korea, Guam, Philippines, the state of Hawaii and more.

A film festival featuring films by Asian-Pacific artists is hosted by the Katterbach Dining Facility May 24 at 6:30 p.m. Bruce Lee and other Asian films will be featured. Free popcorn and beverages will be served.

For more information about the month's events, call Hanrahan at 468-7636 or (0981) 183636.

Hike Eagle’s Nest

Let the recreation center take you on a trek to Hitler’s summer home May 19. Bus departs at 4 a.m. Wear sturdy hiking boots, bring extra socks, a change of clothes and plenty of drinking water. Guides and backpacks are provided. A cost of DM20 is suggested for a meal per person. To sign up, call Colin Cornell at 469-7450 or (0951) 3007450.



Cornell

Optometry clinic closes

The Warner Barracks Optometry Clinic closes May 21-25. To schedule appointments during the closure, call the health clinic at 469-1750 or (0951) 3001750. If you have any concerns prior to the clinic’s closure, call SSgt. Decyna Thorpe at 469-1236 or (0951) 3007896.

See ballet

Bamberg Performing Arts Club members will debut their ballet production “Four Seasons” in the elementary school gym May 19 at 6:30 p.m. and May 20 at 5 p.m. More than 65 performers, ages 4 to adult, will dance to the music of Amadeus Mozart and Frederick Chopin.

Honor military spouses

Take advantage of special offers on Spouses’ Appreciation Day May 11. Enjoy a meal at Whispering Pines Lodge with your spouse and get a 10 percent discount, bowl three games for free with your spouse at Birchview Lanes Bowling Center, receive a 20 percent discount at arts and crafts. Attend an open house at Army Community Service from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., get you car washed for half-price with your spouse at auto crafts, or enjoy a barbecue at youth services for spouses and providers from 6-8 p.m.

Learn nuts, bolts

Enroll in an Army Community Service class to learn about the nuts and bolts of the U.S. Army at Preston Hall May 22 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free child care is available on a limited basis. To sign up, call (0951) 3008487.

Enrich your marriage

Strengthen and enrich your marriage at a Family Advocacy Program workshop at Warner Chapel May 22 from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Learn more about your marriage whether you’re a newlywed or have been married for years. Child care is available. For more information, call 469-7777 or (0951) 3007777.

279th BSB

The Crusader, 279th Base Support Battalion, editorial office is located in building 7089, room 423, Warner Barracks, Bamberg, telephone 469-7581 or (0951) 3007581. Mailing address is PAO, Crusader, 279th Base Support Battalion, Unit 27535, Warner Barracks, APO AE 09139.

The 279th BSB hot line is 469-4800 or (0951) 3004800. Patient liaison number is (0951) 3007492.

Internet web site 279th BSB:
http://www.bamberg.army.mil

279th BSB
Commander Lt. Col. Timothy Hill
Public Affairs Officer Renate Bohlen
Journalist Cheryl Boujnida

Youth find faith at the flagpole

Students gather each morning for prayer

by Cheryl Boujnida
CRUSADER

Many people swear by the advantages of eating a good breakfast before school. But Bamberg High School students have added an important ingredient to that mindset – pray before school every morning, too.

Gathering at the flagpole at 7:50 a.m. each day, more than 25 students clasp hands and bow their heads in prayer. Sometimes they pray for fathers and mothers to return from deployments safely, or for a sick grandparent’s speedy recovery, or even for optimal performance at a sporting event. Whatever they pray for, they do so because it’s important for them to reflect before school starts.

“It’s a great way for me to start my day. It helps me to go there and confess my worries and problems. I always leave the circle in a much better mood and ready to start the day,” said student Tarah Gibbs.

Students began praying before school in October last year. Several Bible study enrollees learned of a prayer day popular in the United States at schools once a week and began doing the same.

“Once they started it, they didn’t want to limit their prayers to one day. They kept it going every day through rain, snow, wind and sunshine,” said Brenda Swartz, Bamberg youth ministries volunteer leader.

Swartz explained that many students are lacking spirituality in their lives. “They want to be



Cheryl Boujnida

Bamberg High School students pray at the school’s flagpole. This is how they start their day.

awakened and are willing to risk being labeled as different to attain their spiritual goals. Many pray because they’re seeking something in themselves that they aren’t getting in their homes,” she said.

Students believe their spiritual efforts can make a difference at the community level.

“Earlier this year while we were praying, a soldier came over to our group and asked us to

pray for his sick daughter. We prayed for her and for her thoughtful father.

“We’re a group of Christians who meet at the pole to help ourselves and others,” said sophomore Lindsay Edwards.

For one student, prayer at the pole each morning has been life-altering. “The prayer circle is the reason I get up in the morning. It’s changed my life,” said Meredith Greene.

Former soldier inspires

by Cheryl Boujnida
CRUSADER

Why would 350 soldiers stop their busy schedules to listen to an 81-year-old man?

“Because he’s inspiring, an excellent role model to younger soldiers, and has a lot to say,” said Spec. Terrance Cobb.

Presenting timeless messages about how to soldier with pride and purpose, former Sergeant Major of the Army (Ret.) Leon Van Autreve talked to 1st Infantry Division Engineer Brigade soldiers at Bamberg’s Reel Time Theater April 26. Engineers have a special place in Van Autreve’s heart. He served as the first engineer sergeant major of the Army from 1973-75.

“This old man is here because I love America. I love doing what I can for soldiers, and I want you to feel the same way I do,” Van Autreve said. Peppered with jokes and animated antics, his

advice was direct and heartfelt.

“There are three links holding the U.S. Army together. Those are enlisted, noncommissioned officers, and officers. The success or failure of the U.S. Army lies in the hands of those in the center link – the NCOs. Never forget who you are,” he said.

On the issue of leadership, he personified its mystique. “Leadership is tall, short, brown, black, white. It looks you in the eye and it’s involved,” he said. He told soldiers who weren’t thinking about a career in the Army to get out and work for Taco Bell. Van Autreve touched the core of soldiers present.

“He cares about NCOs and treats soldiers with respect, and there’s a lack of that in today’s Army. He’s dedicated and continues to set an example to soldiers today,” said Sgt. William Gore.



Cheryl Boujnida

SMA (Ret.) Leon Van Autreve laughs with SSgt. Rosalyn and SFC Craig Watts at the Reel Time Theater.



Cheryl Boujnida

German-American fest-goers see howitzers

German-American fest-goers get an up-close glimpse of a howitzer at a static display of engineer and field artillery equipment April 27. Soldiers in 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, and 82nd Engineer Battalion fielded questions and showed off their military savvy. It was the first time a static display was set up at the Volksfest, and it proved to be a crowd-pleaser. More than 350 people examined the equipment.

Arts and crafts creates picture-perfect results

by Cheryl Boujnida
CRUSADER

Rhonda Ramirez is in the business of making people look good.

As a full-time photographer at the arts and crafts portrait studio, she shoots pictures of at least 40 people a week. No matter how many people she photographs, all of her subjects are important to her.

“Every person or family who comes in for professional portraits are unique. I approach each subject differently – I aim at giving customers the type of photos they want,” Ramirez said. She explained the use of digital photographic equipment creates high quality and versatile imagery.

“Both black and white and color photos are available and don’t have to be decided on prior to the sitting. Customers can

choose the format they like best. Hair and eye color can be changed for effect, too,” she said.

Although she’s not trained a plastic surgeon, Ramirez has the capability to doctor blemishes and scars and do tummy tucks.

“I can’t make a size 18 become a size two, but I can make people look smaller and more fit than they are,” she added. Many props, such as feather boas, leather jackets, and sequined dresses are available for glamour shots.

“I just finished shooting glamour shots for 12- and 15-year-old girls. They looked very classy when we were done. Some women have had glamour shots done for their husbands and for



Ramirez

their families. It all depends on what a customer wants,” Ramirez said.

Some of the most endearing photos shot by Ramirez were of baby club members. Babies aged three, six, nine and twelve months giggle and wiggle, while she captures their playful moments on film. “It’s not always easy, but it’s fun. And the results are always spectacular,” she said. Coaxing smiles from infants is not the only challenge Ramirez faces. She’s talented enough to get the family pet to say cheese, too.

Black and white film and print processing classes are available. “It’s great to have a darkroom to use. I love black and white photography. Somehow, it seems more artful than color,” said Bonita Stansfield, a customer at the center.

For more information, or to schedule a portrait sitting, call 469-8659 or (0951) 3008659.

Spouses in spotlight

The Schweinfurt military community will be filled with signs of celebration for Military Spouses' Appreciation Day May 11. In addition to posting banners, Army Community Service, or ACS, will offer complimentary buttons at several locations around the community; meanwhile, the Main Exchange on Ledward Barracks will have a cake in the lobby. The commissary in Askren Manor will offer spouses' specials throughout the day. All members of the community are asked to thank military spouses for their many contributions.

It's registration time

Schweinfurt Elementary School reminds all parents that registration for the 2001-2002 school year will take place at the school in Askren Manor housing area from May 30-June 1. Parents can register their children each day between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., according to Kenneth Law, assistant principal at the school. Returning students' sponsors are reminded to bring their children's identification card, Social Security card, shot records and the registration packet that came in the mail. New students must also bring their sponsor's orders and dependent travel orders.



Law

Visit Western fest

The 280th BSB Western Days fest takes place May 25-28 at Kessler Field near Ledward Barracks, beginning with an opening ceremony and keg-tapping May 25 at 4 p.m. The highlights of the fest include a flea market Saturday from 7 a.m.-2 p.m., live bands in the tent each evening, special deals for those dressed in Western attire and an international horseshoe tournament Saturday and Sunday beginning at 10 a.m. The fest is open to all soldiers assigned to tenant units, their families, and civilians assigned to the 280th BSB. For more information, call 354-6715 or (09721) 966715.

Take safety class

The 280th BSB Safety Office has safety training for all BSB directorates in building 212 on Ledward Barracks. Computer ergonomics, hearing conservation, respiratory training and annual refresher training for fork lift operators are among the topics the safety officers will cover later in the month. For dates and times of training, call 354-1670 or (09721) 961670.

Rodeo rides back

The Schweinfurt Drug and Alcohol Prevention Education, or D.A.R.E., Program will have its bike rodeo and registration in coming weeks in the local communities. The rodeo and registration will be at Bad Kissingen Elementary School June 2 from 2-4 p.m. The event will come to the Schweinfurt Elementary School parking lot June 14 from 4-6 p.m.

280th BSB

The Crusader, 280th Base Support Battalion, editorial office is located in Robertson Hall on Ledward Barracks, Schweinfurt, telephone 354-6381 or (09721) 966381. Mailing address is PAO, Crusader, 280th Base Support Battalion, CMR 457, APO AE 09033.

The 280th BSB hot line is 354-4800 or (09721) 964800.

Internet web site 280th BSB:
http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil

280th BSB Commander	Lt. Col. Timothy Gorrell
Public Affairs Officer	George Ohl
Journalists	Mark Heeter Cristina Denny

Cars burn up Schweinfurt track

by Mark Heeter
CRUSADER

They have probably covered thousands of miles over the years in many corners of the world. Nearly 55 million of them have come in many shapes, sizes and designs.

They are pinewood derby cars.

"Each of you will be part of history at the end of the day," said Anton Alston, addressing the Scouts before the pinewood derby in the Schweinfurt Middle School cafeteria April 21.

Joining the legacy of past racers, Cub Scout Pack 630 from the Schweinfurt and Bad Kissingen military communities put on a show for dozens of parents, volunteers, friends and racing fans.

The group of approximately 45 scouts was divided into Tiger Cubs, who are first-graders, the Wolf Den of second-graders, the third-grade Bears, and the Weblo Scouts, who are fourth- and fifth-graders.

The scouts lined the side of the track, following every race and waiting to congratulate their comrades.

"The kids are having a good time and they're happy. That's the main thing today," said Doug Crissman, Pack 630 committee chairman.

At the head of the track, Alston shouted out the commands from the starting line. He and assistant Sam Scurlock, himself a pinewood racing veteran, inspected each vehicle before releasing the brakes.

"I've raced the cars before, but this is the first time I've helped out," Scurlock said. He was not the only volunteer on hand, though, from scorekeepers to those who filled out the winners' certificates.

Each of the racers was awarded a certificate for taking part in the racing that goes back nearly 50 years. Some scouts earned extra awards for winning categories such as most creative and best designs.



Fred Harper keeps the pinewood derby technically up to speed with a tape repair.



Photos by Mark Heeter

Cub Scout Garrett Crissman, center, waits for his car to hit the finish line. Judges Doug Crissman, left, and George Nieves keep a close eye on the competition.



William Hedges does not try to hold back his excitement after his winning effort.

Finance soldier shines over setbacks

Winning soldier boards set him on the right track

by Mark Heeter
CRUSADER

To start with, Sgt. Silas Daniels couldn't type. Nevertheless, because he did so well on the entrance examinations, he got the administrative military occupational specialty he wanted.

Next, it was the distinct accent that he feared would hold him back. He set out on a course of winning soldier boards, including his recent victory as the 106th Finance Battalion soldier of the year.

But when his son became seriously ill with a heart ailment and his mother passed away earlier this year, even he wondered if he would be able to finish the Primary Leadership Development Course.

"I would be sitting in class, and they would come in and say, 'Your son has to go in for surgery and his condition is serious,'" Daniels recalled. Once he realized his son's condition was stable, Daniels dug in and graduated with the rest of his class Feb. 2.

His determination is the foundation of a reputation that is spreading within finance circles around USAREUR, according to his commander.

"He already has a reputation around the battalion as one of the top soldiers," said Capt. Sean Ryan, Detachment C, 106th Fin. Bn., commander.

"In fact, Daniels was selected by the brigade commander recently as the top target for re-enlistment," Ryan said.

Daniels was born and raised in Ghana, and he played for his country's junior national soccer team. A member of the Schweinfurt community soccer team, Daniels regularly scores more than 300 on his Army Physical Fitness Test and has an all-time high score of 318.

He emigrated in 1991 to live with his mother, who had been in the United States since the 1970s. Not content with the job he had in 1997, he skipped work one day and walked straight to the Army recruiter.

Daniels entered the Army in July 1997 and, after completing basic combat training at Fort Knox, Ky., went to Fort Jackson, S.C., for Advanced Individual Training, or AIT, to become a military pay specialist.

"They promoted me to Private First Class at the end of AIT because I was the distinguished honor graduate of that course," he said.

Praising the leaders with whom he has served, Daniels credits them with helping him to win boards and knock down obstacles.

In addition to recognizing his commander, Daniels said the noncommissioned officers in

'He already has a reputation around the battalion as one of the top soldiers.'

— Capt. Sean Ryan

his unit have all supported him in his effort to study for the boards. That has been the case since he arrived in Schweinfurt, he said.

"Before we left for Kosovo in 1999, we weren't going to boards like this. So that has been a big transformation since Captain Ryan got here," Daniels said.

For his part, the commander credits all the leaders in the unit for providing the example for younger soldiers to follow.

"As far as mentors and leaders for them to look up to here in the detachment, we have them," Ryan said.

Daniels' name was added to that list when he was promoted to his current rank in a ceremony May 1.

"I strive to do the best I can. Everyone likes to be recognized for something. Why shoot for the least, when you can be the best," Daniels said.

SOLDIERS

From Page 1

"We want to let everyone in USAREUR know BOSS is alive and well here in Schweinfurt, and, whatever we learn from everyone else, I hope we can bring it back here," Legette said prior to the conference.

The conference began April 22 with a mixer at which all the representatives got acquainted at shared ideas. Tierien took the podium the following day and entertained and educated the



Willer

signed for individual units.

audience with his speech.

"He had a very animated personality and, for speaking by himself for an entire day, there wasn't a boring moment," Willer said.

Tuesday and Wednesday, business continued with classes about activities and fundraisers, which Willer wants to bring to the entire community.

"This is a program for all single soldiers in the community," Joiner said. She emphasized that the organization is not de-

"BOSS falls under the umbrella of morale, welfare and recreation to get support and legal advice they need," Joiner said, explaining the finer details of BOSS programs.

Comparing his organization to married soldiers' family readiness groups, Willer said BOSS is here to support its members, not simply provide an outlet for partying.

"We try to do the community a service as well. BOSS is here to support them, too" he said.

At the conference, he took away ideas for several improvements and activities to try back in Schweinfurt.

"Of course the program could be better, and we'll make it better, but it's headed in the right direction," Willer said.

Visit vet clinic



Walker

The Wuerzburg Veterinary Clinic is open and available to care for all of your pets. Services offered include vaccinations, puppy/kitten exams, geriatric exams, health certificates, assistance with shipping pets to CONUS, behavioral consultations, obedience training, and a wide variety of surgical procedures, to include dental care, said Michelle Walker, animal health technician. The clinic is located at Leighton Barracks, building 26, and is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon-Thu and Fri from 8 a.m.-noon. For more information, call 350-7429, or (0931) 8897429.

Join polar expedition in Giebelstadt

Giebelstadt's Vacation Bible School offers children fun and memorable Bible-learning activities. Join a polar expedition June 18 through June 22. Pre-registration is required. For more information, call 352-6360 or (09334) 876360.

Get legal assistance

The 1st Infantry Division Legal Assistance Office offers complete services to eligible ID card holders at no cost. This includes powers of attorney, notarizations, affidavits, and much more. Call 355-8825 or (093231) 305825 for more information.

Parents' night out

The Kitzingen Child Development Center hosts a parents' night out at the center May 19 from 6 p.m.-midnight. Pre-registration through central registration is required. The fee is \$12 per child, or E-4's and below may use the 10-hour free coupon. For more information and reservations, call 355-2460 or (09321) 305460.

Exercise brings delays

The 417th BSB has a force protection exercise May 14-18. Those who live and work in the Würzburg, Kitzingen and Giebelstadt areas can expect delays when gaining access and while on installations, said Tyrone Robinson, 417th BSB force protection officer. If you have questions, you can call Robinson at 355-8993 or (09321) 305993.

Musical is a habit

The Wuerzburg American High School music and drama departments present "Nonsense," a musical comedy by Dan Goggin, May 17, 18 and 19 at the high school auditorium. The lights will dim at 7:30 p.m. each evening. Tickets are \$8 or DM15 for adults, \$4 or DM10 for students. For reservations, call 350-7176 or (0931) 8897176.

417th BSB

The Crusader, 417th Base Support Battalion, editorial office is located in building 109, Harvey Barracks, telephone 355-8575 or (09321) 305575. Mailing address is PAO, Crusader, 417th Base Support Battalion, Unit 26124, APO AE 09031.

The 417th BSB hot line is 355-8999 or (09321) 305999.

Phone numbers for patient liaisons are: Kitzingen, 355-8415 or (09321) 305415; Wuerzburg and Giebelstadt, call the 67th Combat Support Hospital, 350-3874 or (0931) 8043874.

417th BSB
Commander Lt. Col. Frank Wheeler
Public Affairs Officer Gabriele Drake
Journalist Elaine Nicholas

Firefighters are first responders

by Elaine Nicholas
CRUSADER

The 417th BSB firefighters are now first responders. After receiving 72 hours of intensive training, 52 personnel from the BSB fire department passed and qualified as first responders.

A first responder is what it sounds like. They are the first people on the scene to stabilize medical situations until an ambulance arrives.

"This allows us to respond in the BSB area to all types of incidents requiring medical attention, and we can stabilize the injured. Our training was very concentrated, and now the firefighters trained here can take the information back to their villages and train even more people," said Hans Wolf, 417th BSB fire chief.

It's a quality of life issue that has its root in partnerships.

"This was a directive from the Department of the Army, and all of it was made possible due to the partnership we have with the Würzburg professional fire protection agency. This also affects quality of life as we are better able to handle more emergencies now, provide a faster service, and give back to the community what we have learned," Wolf said.

The task of firefighters has become more complex in the last years, and the ability to provide patient care quickly is a critical issue in the BSB.

"The effectiveness of the firefighters has now



Lisa Soule

Giebelstadt firemen, along with other BSB firefighters, responded to a mock helicopter crash at Leighton Barracks last October.

increased as they are vital to the support of our soldiers and family members," said Maj. Joseph Moore, 417th BSB DPW director.

"They were able to achieve this training and

are the only firefighters in USAREUR to have reached 100 percent compliance and have their personnel qualified as first responders. That's a remarkable achievement," Moore said.

Partnerships make for better programs

Working together lets youth enjoy summer

by Elaine Nicholas
CRUSADER

The 417th BSB Youth Services, or YS, has teamed up with the Boys' and Girls' Club of America, or BGCA, and Club Beyond to provide an action-packed summer full of activities for the BSB youth.

"We teamed up with the BGCA and Club Beyond to centralize our resources and energies to run a smarter, more efficient program, and this is just one example of our year-round partnerships," said Joe Marton, 417th BSB Youth Services program manager.

This partnership provides more opportunities

for more youth to participate in activities this summer.

"We have centralized our staff in Wuerzburg to allow for more spaces, and this offers more options to the kids," Marton said.

From empowerment and leadership to computer-based training and water-balloon fights, BSB youth can expect an interesting time.

"This is the third year Club Beyond has teamed up with YS, and it has been successful. We continue this ongoing relationship so there are no conflicts in scheduling and young people can participate in as many activities as they like.



Marton

It also fosters interaction between youth with different backgrounds," said Marty McCarty, Club Beyond director.

"We are excited to have a partnership with the BGCA and to have them included in our summer program. Life Skills and the Ultimate Journey are just a few of the programs offered by the BGCA. This really expands the programs we offer," Marton said.

"Our programs could not operate without the cooperation between Club Beyond and the BGCA. We have a vested interest in serving our customers, the youth," Marton said.

Youth must be registered with central registration in order to participate in YS programs.

For a full listing of all summer activities offered by the YS, call 355-8316, or (09321) 305316.



Elaine Nicholas

Recycling is a big deal for school kids

Cory Freed, Wuerzburg Elementary School, shows his Earth Day pride in his homemade dolphin costume. Cory was part of the Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration and tree planting on April 27. More than 100 third-graders from Wuerzburg Elementary School marched to Wuerzburg Middle School in costumes made from recycled materials to show the importance of reduce, reuse, and recycle. Once at the school, the children showed their support by singing songs and reading poetry. Arbor Day is a nationally celebrated day to teach about tree planting and caring. The mayor of Wuerzburg was at the tree planting and even helped the children fill in the dirt around the donated maple tree. This year marks the 32nd year Earth Day has been celebrated.

Combat readiness also means dental readiness

by Elaine Nicholas
CRUSADER

Dental readiness is an important part of combat readiness. In order to be in a deployable status, a soldier must be in a dental category 1 or 2 status, meaning they are fit to fight, and Company D, 701st Main Support Battalion, stands ready.

"If you are a category 3 or 4, you're not deployable. I consistently stay on the task by asking platoon sergeants routinely if soldiers are making their dental appointments," said SFC Earnest Kennedy.

With 99.2% of his troops dentally ready, Kennedy has enjoyed

a measure of success. He also motivates his soldiers.

"If a soldier is a category 4, then they can't take leave until they reach another status," Kennedy said.

"SFC Kennedy has done an outstanding job of getting soldiers here for their exams. Every unit is supposed to have a dental liaison. Soldiers are responsible to be here for their yearly exams; however, they often don't know what they need to do, but the command involvement helps. We want to achieve at least 95% dental readiness for the community," said Spec. Evelena Goudeau, the dental readiness noncommissioned officer, Kitzingen Dental Clinic.

The clinic plans to expand exam hours to afternoons. Walk-in

exams are from 7:30-11 a.m.daily.

"We want to make it easier for soldiers to come in for their dental exams," said Dr. (Lt. Col.) Timothy Becker, in charge of the clinic.

"Unit liaisons should coordinate with Goudeau so as to minimize the waiting time at the clinic. Our biggest concern is making sure soldiers are ready to go," Becker said.

For information and appointments, call 355-8626, or (09321) 305626.



Becker

Cobras get ahead of Bushmasters

by Mark Heeter
CRUSADER

The chalk lines around the home plate at Pendleton Field were fresh and thick before the 280th BSB unit-level softball season opener April 24.

Before long, the Charlie Cobras from the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, and the Bushmasters from the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, dug their trenches around the plate and broke in the playing field for the 2001 season.

The Charlie Cobras, who swiftly built a solid lead, were forced to hold off a Bushmasters' comeback effort on their way to an 11-7 win.

"The sun is out. The field looks great, and it's a lot of fun," said shortstop Donnie Downs following his team's victory.

The sun was shining on the Cobras from the time they took the plate in the bottom of the first inning. Second baseman Kristopher Meely's inside-the-park home run drove in lead-off batter Nathan Fisher.

The Charlie Cobras continued their assault after William Ramos dropped a triple into centerfield and pitcher Ronnie Gainey earned a base-on-balls.

Having found a sweet spot in the outfield, third baseman Juan Soto smacked an inside-the-park, three-run homer, giving the home team a 5-0 lead.

Putting extra topping on the lead before the end of the first inning, Nathan Fisher drove in Alfred Palma, and Cresencio Lazcano's outfield single scored Craig Williamson.

When the Cobras returned to the plate for the bottom of the second inning, Downs picked up where they had left off with an inside-the-park home run. Later in the inning, Soto swatted his second home run of the game.

The Cobras' 9-0 second-inning lead was too much for the Bushmasters, who climbed back into the game in the later innings.

"Everything was about defense out there. That was everything for us," Downs said after the game.

"We came out and played just like we practice. I think if we play more like that, we're going to take the whole thing this year," Meely said.

Weight lifters generate power

Bamberg attracts 39 hard-bodied competitors

by Cheryl Boujnida
CRUSADER

A power surge jolted Bamberg last month when 39 hard-bodied men and women contended at USAREUR's all forces power lifting competition at JFK's Physical Fitness Facility April 14.

Men competed in eight out of a possible 11 weight categories while women rivaled for six out of eight categories. Talent was judged in squat, bench and dead lift competitions. Displaying brute strength meant a chance to win, and the taste of power was invigorating.

'Lifting gives me an adrenaline rush and makes me feel alive.'

— SFC Thelma Harmon

"Lifting gives me an adrenaline rush and makes me feel alive. It's a great feeling to see how you progress," said SFC Thelma Harmon, 38th Personal Services Battalion.

Harmon, who's been gripping iron for 10 to 12 years, hasn't competed in several years. "I just wanted to see if I can still do it. I'm trying to figure out where I measure up again," she said.

Power lifting not only tests physical strength but taxes mental faculties also. "One of the biggest challenges of weight lifting is employing mind over body techniques. Power lifting requires a balance of your mind and body," said MSgt. Valerie Webster, Company B, 601st Aviation Support Battalion, Katterbach.

Strength wasn't the primary goal of the day. Competitors were concerned with their lifting techniques also.

"You can't compete in power lifting competitions if you don't know how to lift. Techniques help prevent sport injuries," said George Bermudez, JFK facility director.

Bermudez stressed that using correct lifting techniques and enhanced clothing allows competitors to excel. "Competitors wear special lifting shirts for each category. It often looks like it's five times to small, but its task is to keep muscles in place so they don't get torn. It's not only about looking good, but about functioning also," he said.

A combination of techniques and training can make for a winning athlete. "It requires a lot of hard work and dedication to be the sixth strongest man in the world," said 1st Sgt. Carlos Lewis, Company A, 501st Military Intelligence. Lewis, who's won at almost every competition he's entered, said winning's great but not everything. "I get a lot of self-worth from lifting. It can take you wherever you want to go," he said.

Senior Airman Spec. Tobias Adams doesn't see people as his opponents. "The weight is my only opponent. I try to beat it every time," he said. Balancing 264 kilograms, he grimaces and the light comes on. "Good lift," screams a judge. "If it wasn't for my commander's support, I wouldn't be living this moment – it's been a great day for me," Adams said.

Best female lifter was Toni Kemper lifting 375 kilograms, and Ennis White in the men's division lifting 802.5 kilograms.



Cheryl Boujnida

MSgt. Valerie Webster lifts 248.5 kilograms at the USAREUR all forces power lifting competition in Bamberg.

Track team tiny, mighty

by Lisa Eichhorn
CRUSADER

A cold, rainy and somewhat windy day didn't help the Ansbach Cougars track team's struggle to gain points at their home meet April 28, which hosted many teams from the bigger division I and II schools.

Coach Linda Sykes said it was hard for her team to get the points because her team is usually outnumbered.

"This is the biggest track team I have had in the six years I've been coaching. But, with my 40 students, compared to teams the size of Heidelberg or Kaierslautern, it means we're beat before we start just in points," she said.

Sykes added that doesn't mean she doesn't have talent on her team, it just means they have to work harder.

"We have several kids who are at the top of their events. Plus we have about 19 middle-school students, whose points don't count, but who are placing ahead of the high school kids," Sykes said.

Heidelberg High School won the event with

133 points, followed by Patch American High School and Munich International School. Ansbach came in last, behind Bamberg, Kaiserslautern and Hohenfels.

A bright spot for the team was second place for senior Josh Hayes in the shot-put. He said he knew his competition was going to be from Patch's Matt Clark, but he hoped to take the event.

"I know I can throw farther than him, but the weather was pretty bad and I just didn't get it done. Second is OK, but first is better," he said.

Hayes was the 2000 Department of Defense Dependents Schools Athlete of the Year and placed third in Europe in shot-put last year.

Several other students were awarded ribbons for their efforts. Ansbach's Shawn Bachtel took second place in the boys' 300-meter hurdles and Wanika Wade took second place in the girls' long jump.

Ansbach will host the division III track finals May 19. This will include schools from throughout Europe.



Lisa Eichhorn

Tom Crane of Ansbach works to stay ahead of his competition at a home meet on April 28.

Roundup

See track finals

The 235th BSB hosts the division III track finals at the Ansbach Middle/High School May 19 at 10 a.m. More than 14 schools from all over Europe will be attending. For more information, call 467-2808 or (09802) 832808.

Watch unit volleyball on Storck Barracks

The 235th BSB is hosting a unit-level volleyball tournament May 14-16 at the Bunch Fitness Center on Storck Barracks. The tournament will run 6-9 p.m. each day. All community members are encouraged to come out and cheer on their unit's volleyball team. For more information, call 467-4582 or (09841) 83582.

Youth skate night

Bamberg's youth services, or YS, is hosting a super skate night at the YS sports and fitness on Warner Barracks May 19 from 5-9 p.m. Middle school youth within the 98th Area Support Group are invited to attend. Call your YS to sign up for bus transport to Bamberg. Admission is \$3 and includes skate rental. In addition to skating, youth can enjoy snacks, games, and a chance to win prizes. For more information, call Blythe Perez at 469-7469 or (0951) 3007469.

Enter billiard tourneys

Try your luck playing billiards at Bamberg Whispering Pines Lodge pool tournaments May 15 and 29 at 7 p.m. Enter free of charge and get a chance to win prizes. For more information, call the Whispering Pines Lodge at 469-7583 or (0951) 3007583.

Go rafting with recreation center

Join Bamberg Recreation Center for a white water rafting adventure in Austria May 12. Take a guided trip down the Salzach River through the Austrian Alps. Cost per person is \$75 and includes transportation, equipment

and a grill party. Hike through a gorge for an additional DM4. Bus departs at 4 a.m. from the recreation center. For more information, call 469-7450 or (0951) 3007450.

Get softball action

The 280th BSB unit-level softball play is underway, and all are invited to come out and cheer for their favorite teams. More than 20 teams are participating this year. Games are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at Pendleton and Red fields on Conn Barracks at 6 p.m.

Magicians get kicks

The Schweinfurt Magicians community soccer team will host the team from Grafenwoehr and Vilseck May 12 at 11 a.m. The contest will take place at the German school behind the Askren Manor housing area. For more information about the Magicians, call 354-6474 or (09721) 966474.

Play Rugby at Larson Barracks

Interested in the sport that takes all and gives all? Then come out for a taste of Rugby. Practices are every Saturday at Larson Barracks, Kitzingen, at 11 a.m. The pitch is at the lower sports field by the helipad. For more information, call Christopher Kavanaugh at 355-8517 or (09321) 350517.

Take free lessons at Kitzingen Golf Club

Free golf lessons are available at the Kitzingen Golf Club, Larson Barracks, every Saturday. Enjoy the 18-hole golf course and let the professionals teach you. For more information, call (09321) 4956.

Play volleyball

The 417th BSB community women's volleyball team needs players. All I.D. card holders are eligible. The team practices Tuesday and Thursday nights and has games on Saturday throughout the 98th ASG. For more information, call Donna Tomsic at 351-4314 or (09302) 2129.

417th BSB named ‘tree city’ by Arbor Foundation

by Elaine Nicholas
CRUSADER

The 417th Base Support Battalion, or BSB, has been named a “tree city” USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

This is the first time the BSB has received this award. Arbor Day is one day out of the year when the world sets time aside to specifically plant trees.

“Trees, the unsung heros of the world, offer us so much. They retain soil, provide oxygen, and offer our backs a place to rest. Arbor Day also seeks to foster awareness of tree care,” said Ken Sims, 417th BSB environmental office.

“Tree City USA recognizes communities that have an effective program for the planting and caring of trees, most of which are on public property, along streets, in parks and around buildings. Tree City USA recognition also makes a strong contribution to community pride,” said Achim Ohlenschlager, 417th BSB DPW buildings and grounds chief.

“The contribution to community pride also

extends out to our German partners. We co-ordinate our environmental issues with them, and they donated the tree for our Arbor Day celebration. We could not have done this without the support of the City of Wuerzburg,” Sims said

He went on to say, “This award not only honors us, but the city as well.”

The Arbor Day celebration was held April 27 at the Wuerzburg Middle School, where students from Wuerzburg Elementary School marched over, decked out in costumes made out of recycled materials.

“The Americans living in our city are excellent citizens, and all of the trees you have planted have really improved our area. It’s important to improve our world for the next generation,” said Jürgen Weber, Lord Mayor of Wuerzburg.

After singing Earth Day songs, the children and the mayor filled in dirt around the maple tree.

“This is the time to build a legacy and plant a tree every year,” said Sims.



Arthur McQueen, USAREUR PAO

Apache engages targets

An AH-64 Apache from Company A, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, Illesheim, fires its main gun. The attack helicopter unit was in Grafenwoehr, supporting a combined arms live fire exercise involving day and night operations by the 173rd Airborne Brigade from Vicenza, Italy.

Reliving the Civil War

by Olivia Feher
CRUSADER

Although the U.S. Civil War took place more than 130 years ago, it seemed as if everyone hadn’t heard the word April 28 when 25 German and British civilians donned their Union blue uniforms and got ready for battle on Leighton Barracks.

Organized by Robert Frank, 1st Infantry Division museum docent, the individual group members come from all over to take part in this yearly refresher course.



Schneider

“We are part of the Federal Battalion of Germany, about 200 of us whose hobby is the Civil War,” said Peter Schneider from Berlin, who first became interested in the Civil War in 1966.

“More than 250,000 Germans fought in the Civil War. There were even some German units who spoke no English. Mostly these people had gone to America to start a new life. They were greeted with hospitality and wanted to repay their hosts. Even today, I’m impressed by the hospitality I receive no matter where I go in the United States,” Schneider said.

The little campsite these hobby soldiers set up

‘More than 250,000 Germans fought in the Civil War.’

– Peter Schneider

was fashioned after the real thing as much as possible with coffee brewing over an open fire in old-fashioned cooking pots.

“We pitch and live in authentic tents and train by original Civil War manuals, which means all our orders are given in English,” said Uwe Gaukel, who wears the green uniform of the 1st U.S. Sharpshooter Company.

“It’s important to understand the English commands because there were no translators back then, so there’s a lot to learn and take back with us,” Gaukel said.

Schneider added, each member of the battalion shares a deep interest in the Civil War. It’s great to see the young members as well as the old share the same interest.

“We started with roll call at 6:15 this morning, followed by drill inspection, field training and lectures into tomorrow when we finish up with a formal dress parade,” Schneider said.



Olivia Feher

Members of the Federal Battalion of Germany practice drill behind the 1st Inf. Div. Museum on Leighton Barracks.

Visit Prague, the ‘Golden Town’

by Cristina Denny
CRUSADER

The ancient city and capital of the Czech Republic, Prague, is the center of Czech’s history as well as a tourist hot spot in Europe.

Golden Prague is situated in the valley of the Vltava, or Moldau, river. Prague is dominated by its castle, which overlooks the city. It’s unquestionably a city that should be visited on foot, so as not to miss the many art styles that adorn the city.

Prague features many key attractions including the Karluv, or Charles, Bridge. The Charles Bridge is Prague’s most famous and most photographed location. It was built in 1357 as part of Charles the IV’s monumental building program that included the castle, St. Vitus Cathedral and the university.

This pedestrian bridge serves as a focal point for tourists. Artists and craftsmen sell their goods along the bridge while jazz musicians provide a constant source of music entertainment.

Prazsky Hrad, or Prague Castle, is part of the national cultural heritage managed by the Prague Castle Administration, a contributory organization of the president’s office. Prague Castle is also the workplace and official seat of the President of the Czech Republic.

Entering under the Battling Titan statues, you can admire the three courtyards, fortifications and gardens of the castle. It was built around the year 880 by prince Borivoj.

Staromestke Namesti, or the Old Town Square, dates back to the 12th century and is the focal point for tourists in Prague. Stalls selling crafts line the perimeter, and horse-drawn carriages await those wishing to tour the historic center. All of the palaces, churches and houses around the square are of major historical interest.

The best time to visit Prague is in the early spring and the late fall after the majority of tourists have left.

A visit to Prague is relatively inexpensive and shopping can be a rewarding opportunity despite what husbands may think. Czech crystal and glassware are superb and often represent extremely good value. There are enough shops to spend an entire day on this alone. Cheap Czech crystal jewelry can be found throughout the city. Amber is also very reasonable. Antiquarian

books and prints remain good buys as well. Opening hours vary widely: Mon to Fri 8-10 a.m. and 5-8 p.m., and Sat 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Many tourist shops and larger stores now remain open on Sat and Sun afternoons.

In order to enter the Czech Republic a passport is required, but a visa is not necessary for U.S. citizens for tourism or business visits of up to 30 days.

The Czech Republic has a low rate of violent crime. However, there has been a dramatic increase in street crime, particularly pickpocketing, especially in major tourist areas in Prague and on public transportation. Visitors should also be alert to the potential for substantial overcharging by taxis, particularly in areas frequented by tourists.

Prague is only a four-hour drive from Schweinfurt, but can take up to seven hours by train. It’s advisable, if you decide to drive, to park in a safe garage since car thefts are very common in the Czech Republic.



Kirsten Gerlach

The Charles Bridge, built in 1357, is Prague’s most famous and most photographed location.



Cheryl Boujnida

Youth sow seeds

Forest ranger Reiner Stolbinger helps Janae Neal, 10, plant a sapling during 279th BSB’s Earth Day activities April 19. Bamberg Elementary School students viewed wildlife and protected species displays, listened to poetry performed by the Nature Club, and enjoyed lunch compliments of directorate of public works staff.

A doc who CARES



Malsby

For helping a soldier in time of need, a family practice physician at U.S. Army Hospital, Wuerzburg, was named the command's CARES award winner for April. Dr. (Capt.) Rob Malsby took an after-hour call and aided a soldier suffering from severe muscle spasms. The CARES award, which stands for Compassionate, Attentive, Responsive, Enthusiastic Service, is presented monthly to any soldier, civilian or local national, regardless of occupation, who is within the scope of employment with the organization, to include contractors.

Visit retiree fair

A retiree health fair will be held at the U.S. Hospital, Wuerzburg, May 19 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Many services and a great deal of information will be on hand, including an identification card service. For information, call Capt. Dearea Gilbert-Mitchell at 350-3885 or (0931) 8043885, or Candance Jones at 350-2202 or (0931) 8042202.

Get vaccinated

The pediatric clinic at the U.S. Wuerzburg Army Hospital, offers walk-in immunizations for students in classes grades K to 12 next year. Students need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian and have their yellow shot record and medical record. Immunizations will be given July 13, 20, 27 and August 10, 17, 24 from 1-3 p.m. For information, call the pediatric clinic at 350-3830 or (0931) 8043830.

Alcohol makes you fat

Alcohol can add hundreds of calories to your daily diet and can be the difference between weight loss, maintaining your current weight, or gaining weight. A glass of beer or wine contains at least 100 calories. If you're dieting or working to get rid of that last bit of fat, keep alcohol to a minimum.

Dental clinic closes

The Leighton Dental Clinic is closed for renovation until June 19. Sick call will be held daily in a mobile dental bus which will be parked in the clinic parking lot. Sick call hours will continue to be 7:30-9 a.m. Orthodontic care will be suspended May 7-11, but will be available from May 14-June 19 at the Harvey Dental Clinic. All other services will be suspended until renovation is completed. For more information, call MSgt. Evelyne Naylor at 350-6125 or (0931) 8896129.

Know the ABCs of hepatitis

by Dr. (Maj.) Steve Cersovsky
Chief, Preventive Medicine
U.S. Army Hospital, Wuerzburg

I love my liver. In fact, it's my favorite major organ. The liver has the capacity to detoxify all the junk we take into our bodies every day.

But it's not invincible. There are many drugs, toxins, and infectious organisms that can cause significant injury to the liver, and most of them don't even come in a six-pack.

Hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver, is the focus of this article. Hepatitis is commonly spread to humans, specifically in viruses named hepatitis A, B, and C.

All hepatitis viruses can cause acute symptoms such as fever, fatigue, nausea, vomiting and jaundice (yellow skin), but more than 90 percent of the time these infections don't produce any symptoms.

The older you get, the more likely you are to have symptoms. The good news for older folks, however, is that they are less likely to develop lifelong disease when infected with hepatitis B or C. Hepatitis A does not cause long-term infection.

Hepatitis A infects us after we ingest food or water contaminated with fecal material containing the virus. Yummy. Our bodies do a good job of eliminating this virus, so we need not worry about chronic hepatitis A infections.

Good personal hygiene and sound food and water sanitation practices help prevent exposure to hepatitis A. An effective vaccine is also available for travelers. Contact the travel medicine center at U.S. Army Hospital, Wuerzburg, 350-3789 or (0931) 8043789 for more information.

Hepatitis B and C are acquired through contact with blood or other body fluids of infected people. At primary risk are health care workers and other professionals who have close contact to body fluids. Hepatitis B also commonly affects intravenous drug users and those who practice unsafe sex. It can also be acquired through unsanitary tattooing or body piercing and may be transmitted from a mother to her fetus.

Unlike hepatitis A, both B and C can cause lifelong infections. If left untreated, this illness may over time lead to cirrhosis (scarring) and liver failure. Ultimately, without a liver transplant, the party's over.

Fortunately, there's an effective three-shot vaccination series for people at high risk of occupational exposure to hepatitis B. The im-

munization is also given to all newborns as part of routine childhood vaccinations and to adolescents who missed the shots as a child.

Hepatitis C is the newest and perhaps most dangerous kid on the block. Similar to hepatitis B, there is no vaccine for this virus. The only means of prevention is avoidance.

It is primarily contracted through exposure to blood from a person already infected. Prior to 1985, the blood supply was not screened for this virus and some people were exposed during transfusions. Now that the blood supply is safe, at-risk groups are similar to those at risk for hepatitis B.

There are medications to treat hepatitis C, but they are effective in only 15 to 30 percent of patients. People infected with hepatitis C should also be immunized against hepatitis A and B.

An estimated 5 million Americans are infected with hepatitis C. Another 5 million live in Western Europe. Hepatitis C causes about 70 percent of chronic hepatitis, 60 percent of liver cancer, and 40 percent of end-stage cirrhosis. This virus causes between 8,000 to 10,000 U.S. deaths each year, numbers that will increase unless better treatments and effective vaccines are developed.

If you are concerned that you may have been exposed to one of these viruses, call your local health clinic for information about testing.



Cersovsky



Roger Teel

Nurses celebrate

Above, Col. Sallie Jolly, deputy commander for nursing, reminds nurses that it's a nurse's duty to care. It's something that can't be taught. Right, MSgt. David Janney cuts a cake, Wuerzburg hospital nurses Lt. Col. Joyce Craig, Capt. Sandra Martin, Maj. Barbara Holcomb, Michelle Minard and Jolly get ready to try a piece during a ceremony that kicked off Nurse's Week April 30.

Young artist vies for national honor

Tar Wars poster contest lets youth draw message

by Roger Teel
U.S. Army Hospital, Wuerzburg

Earl Shields says his ability to draw comes naturally.

"One of my first-grade teachers told me I was one of the best drawers she'd ever seen. My dad said I was born with it. It's something I like to do. It's fun," he said.

He's good at it, too. The fifth-grader at Wuerzburg American Middle School is now vying for national recognition in the 2001 Tar Wars poster contest.

Tar Wars is part of a pro-health, tobacco-free education program aimed at fourth- and fifth-graders worldwide with the goal of discouraging

tobacco use among youth.

Shields' entry, a two-sided message that contrasts a smoker's life versus that of a non-smoker, was deemed best in local judging last December.

The poster was forwarded to the Uniformed Services Academy of Family Physicians competition in San Diego and won there. His poster will now be judged at the National American Academy of Family Physicians competition in July against entries from the 50 states.

Shields, 11, is the son of CWO 3 Matt and Hye Ok Shields, Company A, 1st Battalion, 59th Aviation, Giebelstadt.



Shields

"I'd say his success is more a love of drawing than that of communicating a non-smoking message," said Matt Shields.

"I mostly like to draw animals and cartoons," Earl said.

Ask him his favorite things to do and Earl says, "Soccer, and I used to like baseball. I also liked going to the flight simulator with my dad," which they did once before his father deployed in February.

Tar Wars has been implemented in all 50 states and internationally, reaching an estimated 1,500,000 children. The program was developed in 1988 by the Hall of Life at the Denver Museum of Natural History and DOC (Doctors Ought to Care.)

Besides Shields, other local winners were Morgan Hilber, second, and Deanna Wilson, third.

Use common sense for a healthy, safe summer

by Lisa Reid
98th ASG Health Promotion Coordinator

It's always fun in the sun if you follow some common sense precautions.

When it's hot – use sunscreen. For optimum protection make it 30 SPF. You can sizzle under a cloudy sky, so protect your skin. Find a fun hat and lightweight shirt to cover your face and shoulders.

When swimming or in the water – bring a buddy when frolicking in the waves. Swim only in approved areas. Pay attention to the weather and the currents in a lake or sea.

Taking to the hills – then use the buddy system when hiking. Have the proper footwear for the terrain. Know the area or hire

a guide. Take plenty of water and snacks just in case. Research the area to identify possible encounters with unfriendly animals or plants. Note when the sun goes down and the path that you have taken.

When biking, roller blading or skateboarding – inspect your gear often and wear safety items. Don't ruin a lovely day with a wheel falling off. Stick with a friend. Know the area. Just because you see a car doesn't mean the driver sees you.

When digging in the yard – grass, flowers and hedges grow. If it needs trimming, wear protective clothing. Wear sturdy boots. Use sun block, a hat and protective eye gear. A pretty yard isn't worth losing any of your body parts.

When burning the meat – light the fire and throw the meat and

veggies on the grill. Don't compete for the tall flame award. Use caution with charcoal, lighter fluid and matches. Keep your eyebrows. Keep an eye on the kids, too. Give them something to do so they don't flip your burgers. Keep it simple. The more sauces and mixes you have, the higher the risk of food poisoning if you leave them sitting out too long.

Clean as you go – and don't use the same utensils, plates or containers you use for uncooked meat, fish and poultry to serve cooked meat, fish and poultry unless you wash them thoroughly before using again.

May is Summer Safety Month in the 98th ASG. Look for activities to increase your sense of summer safety. For more information call your community safety office.